

Call for papers

Journal

British Journal of Visual Impairment (BJVI)

Special issue

Research: Visual impairment in German-speaking countries

The missing connection

On one hand, research with people with visual impairment is regarded as a marginal discourse in German-speaking countries. On the other hand, this research direction has a long tradition and has a broad base with five university research institutions in Germany and one in Switzerland. However, the research projects and results of the German-speaking scientific community only sporadically find their way into international discourses, just as the international knowledge in the context of blindness and visual impairment is not always sufficiently taken into account in the German-speaking scientific community. Although there are certainly many reasons for this, apart from sometimes diverging scientific research traditions and paradigms (Brian, Haibach-Beach, Lieberman, & Giese, 2017), the German-speaking countries have a large number of their own scientific peer-reviewed journals as well as practically oriented journals, so there is no fundamental need for researchers to publish in English. In particular, in the social and the pedagogical fields, German-language and international research activities exist in parallel, without a systematic exchange, this is not profitable for all.

Filling the gap

Against this background, this special issue pursues the goal of making interdisciplinary research from Germany, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, Austria, and Switzerland and other German-speaking areas of countries internationally visible in the context of blindness and visual impairment in order to establish a stronger connection to international discourses. So the call for papers addresses primarily unpublished empirical contributions from German-speaking countries in the context of blindness and visual impairment. In order to provide a comprehensive overview of current and, above all, central research projects in German-speaking countries, both quantitative research approaches and qualitative research approaches are welcome.

Aims

The possible range of topics of relevant contributions covers all thematic subjects that are defined by the objectives of the journal (Aims and Scope). In this sense, research on visual impairment and blindness may seem relevant in the context of education, health, well-being, physical activity, assistive technology, or employment throughout the life span.

Papers/contributions may be accepted if innovative research results are based on international knowledge and can be expected to be highly relevant to improve the living, working, and educational situation of people who are blind and partially sighted (Ravenscroft, 2015). Among other things, it focuses on contributions that, within the meaning of Article 8 of the CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities) (Awareness-raising), help understand and deconstruct barriers that hinder the full and effective participation of people with visual impairment or who are blind in society on equal basis with others (McLinden, Douglas, Cobb, Hewett, & Ravenscroft, 2016) and/or deepen their understanding of how societal transformation processes in the sense of an inclusive society should be designed with regard to visual impairment.

References

- Brian, A., Haibach-Beach, P., Lieberman, L., & Giese, M. (2017). Promoting motor skills for children with visual impairments in inclusive settings: An international perspective. *Sonderpädagogische Förderung heute*, 62, 288–298. doi:10.3262/SOF1703288
- McLinden, M., Douglas, G., Cobb, R., Hewett, R., & Ravenscroft, J. (2016). 'Access to learning' and 'learning to access': Analysing the distinctive role of specialist teachers of children and young people with vision impairments in facilitating curriculum access through an ecological systems theory. *British Journal of Visual Impairment*, 34, 177–195. doi:10.1177/0264619616643180
- Ravenscroft, J. (2015). A discussion on what is a qualified teacher of pupils with visual impairment. *British Journal of Visual Impairment*, 33, 161–166. doi:10.1177/0264619615603287

Timetable

- **Abstracts submitted to the Corresponding Guest Editor by: December 01, 2019; email: Martin.Giese@hu-berlin.de**
- **Authors notified of acceptance by: December 15, 2019**
- **Completed manuscripts from selected authors to be submitted by: May 01, 2020, through the BJVI submission process**
- **Peer Review: May–July 2020**
- **Revisions completed by: September 2020**
- **Publication by: January 2021**

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